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THE HOME GUARD.

A meeting of the home guard was held on Tuesday night in the Town Hall to receive the report of the O. C. R. H. Robertson, and transact any other business that might come up.

Mr. Robertson announced that he would appoint Messrs. F. W. Brown and T. R. Blaine as drill instructors, Geo. Bruce fire chief and Mr. Fitchett transport officer.

It was decided to fix the fee for active members at 25c., and honorary members at \$1.00, the O.C. expressing the hope that all those who could not see their way to becoming members of the guard would assist by contributing \$1.00 to the funds.

After the meeting, those present proceeded to the ground at the back of the hall and were there put through the preliminary stages of their drill, F. W. Brown acting as drill instructor and T. R. Blaine as troop leader.

The men went through the various movements with considerable smartness, the instructor being highly delighted with the progress made.

The next drill will be held this evening at 7.15 p.m. All members please attend.

Business men should advise this.

RED CROSS NOTES.

The British Red Cross is conducting a school for soldiers who have lost their sight in the war. The subjects taught are Braille reading, writing and typewriting, carpentry, book repairing, and basket making, massage and telephone operation, as well as poultry farming and market gardening. The average duration of training is six months and a special will be made to give the blind soldier a good start in life. The Canadian Red Cross is considering plans for a similar work in Canada.

At the funeral of Sister Luena Porris a Red Cross nurse who died of Enteric fever in Serbia, a service was conducted in the Cathedral at Kragujevac by an English Chaplain. This is said to be the first time that a service has been held in any Orthodox Greek Church according to the rites of the Church of England.

The Swiss populace have been giving enthusiastic public receptions to the French prisoners of war who have passed through Switzerland on their way back to France after having been exchanged through the medium of the Red Cross.

The children of a Blind School at Swiss Cottage near London have mailed 3,000 pairs of socks for the soldiers and sailors besides weaving several hundred baskets for the British and Russian Navies. In addition they got up two entertainments which netted \$100 for the Red Cross and Belgian Relief fund.

Payment of Gov't Irrigation in the South.

Farmers in this district who were furnished with seed grain last spring by the Dominion government are now in receipt of a circular letter from J. Bruce Walker, commissioner of immigration in Winnipeg, who was in charge of the distribution. The circular intimates to the farmers that the money due on seed grain is collectable when their crops are sold.

"Arrangements have been made by the government with the respective grain purchasing interests and railway companies (these being the agents of the government for this purpose) under which there will be set off or secured against the proceeds of the grain marketed by you the amount due by you. The receipt of the elevator or representative on the member of the Grain Growers' Association or other licensed grain buyer, or of the railway company (which will endorse the amount payable to the government on the bill of lading in the case of grain shipped by the grower before sale) will be delivered, and will be evidence that the farmer is entitled to a discharge of the lien or mortgage. These receipts will be on forms furnished by the government to the grain purchasing and shipping interests. Information as to the amount of the advances and particulars of location of the land charged with payment, will be in the possession of these respective interests at the points at which the crop is marketed."

The distribution of the above circular has caused considerable uneasiness among the farmers and many are of the opinion that its enforcement will cause a certain amount of distress.

The Review would point out, however, that the letter does not expressly state whether the amount to be collected from the farmer includes the whole of his indebtedness to the government, or whether it refers to the cost of seed grain payments only. If the latter, no great cause for complaint exists, for in the majority of cases the farmer is not only willing but anxious to relieve himself of this obligation. If, however, the government insists upon collecting the amount due on both relief and seed, then we believe its action would cause and deserve serious criticism. At a time when the wheat market is on the downward grade (and at the time of writing there seems every prospect of its getting still lower) the withdrawal of this large sum of money from those districts which have already been seriously affected by bad seasons will have a most deterrent effect upon the progress of those communities. Store holders, many of them, have been waiting several years for a favorable opportunity to collect old debts, and it is only reasonable to expect that they will have equality with the government and other concerns, a chance to make some leeway. For the well-to-do of the rural community, this chance should be allowed.

The issue of the circular under discussion has caused widespread confusion, and organizations in several of our towns and cities are taking energetic steps to induce the authorities at Ottawa to curtail their demands upon those who were forced to accept government assistance last winter. The letter following was one sent by G. B. Marnech, president of the Lethbridge Board of Trade, to the Minister of the Interior, Hon. Dr. Roche.

It reads as follows:—
Hon. W. J. Roche,
"Thrasher men and binder twine dealers here, understanding the government having instructed elevators and platforms to collect gaudy relief as well as seed and fodder noises are apprehensive that due then not be paid, owing to falling prices for grain and consequently, farmers to get their seed and supplies, which would be fatal to getting the crop harvested

Since the article published in 'The Review' of August 18th, relative to a big irrigation project which the Dominion government contemplates undertaking in Southern Alberta, we have received many inquiries as to whether this scheme includes Bow Island in its area. We wrote to the Irrigation Commissioner at Calgary for information and the following letter was received in reply. From this it will be seen that Bow Island is included in the scheme. The letter reads:—

Calgary, Alberta.
Sir,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of August 9th with reference to a project for the development of irrigation in the south country now being developed by the Dominion Government.

I beg to say that surveys have now been carried on for two years with a view to determining the feasibility of irrigating land lying south of the Crosswade line and stretching east from the Lethbridge district approximately as far as Forty Mile crosses. You will understand that, while the surveys are being made no decision has as yet been reached by the Dominion Government as to whether this project will be constructed.

It is not possible for me to give you any detailed information regarding the development prior to the time that the information is made public through the departmental reports. But I may say that Bow Island lies within the easterly limit of the lands which our surveys have determined as being possible of irrigation.

Commissioner of Irrigation.
E. M. Peters.

Hard on the Bachelors.

Under the "Act Respecting Householders" the borrowing powers of the householder have been materially restricted by virtue of the fact that the wife is now a party to the signing of agreements and mortgages. In past the act read as follows:—

"No transfer, agreement of sale, lease or other instrument intended to transfer or convey any interest in a homestead shall be valid for such purposes and no mortgage or incumbrance intended to charge any homestead with the payment of such a sum of money shall be valid unless the same is signed by the owner and his wife, if he has a wife, etc."

In view of the fact that the signature must be secured to any such instrument as those referred to there are many instances where loan and mortgage companies are refusing absolutely to carry loans to bachelor farmers for fear of the consequences. One company in Moose Jaw has been instructed to accept no such loans. Their view of the matter is that a man may represent himself to be a bachelor any later on, after the company has accepted the loan, a wife turns up and because of the fact that she is not in a party to the agreement the loan becomes invalid and the company loses.

and sold. After consultation with several of our members I beg to respectfully suggest that you instruct to enforce collection only of seed grain and fodder. This we understand would willingly be assented to by threshers and dealers, and understand farmers also would be agreeable as they would be enabled to get other credit necessary to complete harvesting. This would have considerable advantage to be collected now if farmers could afford it, on later on. If your government agrees to this procedure, suggest immediate publicity, and so remove these apprehensions. Kindly reply.

G. B. Marnech.
The reply of the government to Mr. Marnech's letter will be awaited with some interest. In the meantime, it is worth noting that not a word of the now passed edicts has received instructions as yet relative to the relief.

T W I N E

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The farming business is now coming to a point where it is generally recognized as the most prosperous business going, offering the best future and the brightest prospects. That being so there will be no trouble about keeping the boys on the farm for he will be keen to see that it is the best place to make money, gain the respect of his fellowmen and obtain that standing amongst men, which is the ambition of every right-minded boy.

It is to gain these things that he has hitherto gone to the city: it is to gain these things that he will hereafter stay on the farm and that will send the youths of the cities to join him.

Some people never had in an item of news for publication, but if we happen to miss an item in which they are interested they are sure to hand us a whole pile of news that will make the lives of a polar bear.

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